

REMARKS

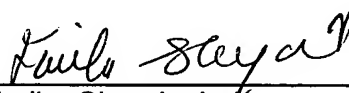
This is in response to the Office Action issued in connection with this case. A three month extension of time has been submitted herewith, extending the time for response to and through March 24, 2005.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, obvious under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Husbands et al. and WO 00/59851 because it was maintained that O-desmethylvenlafaxine is an old compound disclosed by the cited art and even if the references do not make the compound in the same purity, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art to purify the compound using standard purification techniques.

Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 2 to more clearly define what is claimed by Applicant. Applicant maintains that the product prepared according to the described process is different from that of the cited references. Neither Husbands nor WO 00/59851 teach or suggest the presently claimed compound. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 2 should be deemed allowable over the art.

Conclusions

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims in view of the remarks. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to call Rebecca Barrett at (484) 865-8607.



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